



The Kingdom of Morocco

2nd Nuclear Security Summit

Statement by H.E.Dr. EL OTMANI SAAD DINE

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Session on

**“National Measures and International Cooperation to Enhance Nuclear
Security, including Future Commitments”**

Seoul, 27 March 2012

**Mr. President
Excellencies,**

The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the holding of the 2nd Nuclear Security Summit, and thanks President Lee Myung Bak for convening this session on the very important topic devoted to “National Measures and International Cooperation to Enhance Nuclear Security, including Future Commitments”.

The 2010 Washington Nuclear Security Summit, marked an important step toward improving nuclear material security, and States committed to implementing the Summit’s Work Plan. Today’s meeting is yet a valuable opportunity to assess national measures undertaken since the Washington Summit, and to address the increasing need and importance of international cooperation, within the context of nuclear security.

In this setting, I would like to commend the efforts made and the constructive actions taken by the States since the previous Summit, in their implementation of the Work Plan, sharing the common purpose of advancing our goal to strengthen nuclear security regime.

**Mr. President
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Since the Washington Summit, the Kingdom of Morocco has taken several actions aiming at developing the national Nuclear Security architecture, and endeavoured to upgrade its legal and institutional infrastructure, as well as to strengthen its national capacities, including human resources.

To this end, Morocco is in the final stage of adopting a new Draft Law on nuclear and radiological safety and security, to regulate applications using nuclear or other radioactive materials. This Draft Law foresees the establishment of a new independent authority for nuclear safety and nuclear security. In this same context, Morocco is currently elaborating, in cooperation with the EU and the US, a new Draft Law, to develop an export and import control system of dual-use products.

Furthermore, the overall national and harmonized strategy that Morocco has developed, as part of its efforts, consists of important components among which are:

- Enhancing national capabilities in detecting illicit nuclear trafficking incidents.
- Implementing a coordinated response protocols and procedures to responding efficiently to nuclear security events.
- Reinforcing capacity building in nuclear security, in particular through the center of excellence, newly established, in Rabat, by organizing training events, for several African countries, and providing technical assistance and services supporting nuclear securities activities.

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The Trans-boundary nature of the terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the existence of large quantities of nuclear weapons and materials, as well as radioactive substances, the development of illicit trafficking networks and the links between terrorist groups and

organized crime networks, as highlighted by the Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB) of the IAEA that has reported more than 2000 incidents, have given rise to legitimate serious concern, and has emphasised the need for further international cooperation.

The Kingdom of Morocco contributes to international and regional cooperation efforts based on the principle of the necessity of maintaining a balance between the inalienable right to develop and the peaceful use of nuclear energy for development purposes and the obligations of non-proliferation, transparency and responsibility in conformity to international legality. The participation of Morocco to the international efforts to combat terrorism is part of its contribution to maintaining a sustainable international peace and security in the world.

In this spirit, the Kingdom of Morocco believes that efforts to strengthen international nuclear security should not hamper international cooperation to develop and use peaceful nuclear energy for development in full respect of non-proliferation obligations, as well as safety and security requirements.

Following on this, Morocco considers that the international cooperation in nuclear security should aim at:

- Assisting countries in establishing adequate and sustainable nuclear security infrastructure, as well as in implementing international instruments and resolutions.
- Establishing mechanisms for capacity building, including regional centers.
- Promoting a coordinated international and regional response to the threat through information exchanges and experience sharing.

In this regard, and confident that seriously stepping up regional and international cooperation is essential to address effectively nuclear security challenges, the Kingdom of Morocco has been actively engaged in the international cooperation to enhance nuclear security at the national and regional levels, and to reinforce the international regime of nuclear security.

Indeed, as part of its cooperation with the USA, France and Spain, in the field of nuclear security, Morocco is committed to exchanging information as well as best practices, and reinforcing its bilateral cooperation.

To this end, Morocco, with the support of US Department of Energy (DOE), significantly enhanced its capabilities in detection and response to incidents involving radioactive materials, by organizing training events for first responders, as well as drills and exercises. Furthermore, in close cooperation with the United States, Morocco organized training events at the regional level to enhance awareness about nuclear security, and remains committed to cooperate closely in Nuclear Security.

In the same context of international collaboration, a cooperation in nuclear security and CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) Risk Mitigation has been initiated in 2011 with the EU. Areas of cooperation have been identified and implementation means are being examined. This cooperation can be translated by the CBRN Center of Excellence, established in Morocco since December 2011, for African countries of the Atlantic façade, and supported by the EU.

Besides, with regard to the Moroccan-Spanish cooperation in the field of Nuclear Security, the two countries initiated collaboration, since 2011, bilaterally and under the GICNT, with the support of IAEA.

In the outreach field, Morocco, who co-chaired with France the sixth Article XIV Conference in September 2009 and coordinated with France the Article XIV process for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), from 2009 to 2011, organized in October 2010, a workshop for 25 African countries from 5 different sub-regions, to promote the CTBT.

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Morocco is confident that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) accumulated an important experience and possesses the required expertise and tools to play an important role in coordinating the international action in nuclear safety and security.

It is also Morocco's conviction that the IAEA plays a central role and has an essential responsibility in strengthening the international nuclear security framework, through developing international norms and assisting its Member States in establishing effective nuclear security infrastructure. The Agency also provides the international community with sets of instruments and tools capable of ensuring a high level of nuclear security.

In this setting, and within the framework of its cooperation with the IAEA, Morocco organizes at the national and regional levels, several training events, thanks to the National Training and Support Centre of Excellence in Nuclear Security, established last year, in Morocco, which benefits nearly 100 African trainees.

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I would like to reiterate the constant and full commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco to continuing the implementation of the Work Plan, to strengthening its global collaborative efforts through a more enhanced international cooperation, as well as to instilling determination to concretely contribute to achieving the Nuclear Security goals.

We shall endeavour for the promotion of the Nuclear Security Summit's main purpose, of keeping the world safe and peaceful, free from nuclear terrorism, and be at the level of the expectations and aspirations of present and future generations, in a World where security and safety prevail.

I thank you very much.

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